

1. (Amended) A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering intraductally to the patient an agent that increases retrievable secreted ductal fluid from a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance or, in the alternative, to place the application in better form for appeal. No new matter has been added.

Election/Restriction of newly submitted claims 16-33

The Action asserts that claims 16-33 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed (*i.e.*, claims 1-11) because